

Dept. of Genetics,
University of Wisconsin,
Madison, 6, Wisconsin.

August 6, 1948.

Dear Jack,

After reading your letter, I was almost relieved that Perlow was such a misty memory, from days long gone by. But I was shocked that you should suggest that "all in all he had(n't) a better life" - what is the all in all; you sound as if it were nearly over, and the reckoning due tomorrow. But I suppose that the very fact that you wrote may have presaged that you were unusually depressed, and felt that by looking inward and backward some of it could be gotten off your chest. On the whole, it was very distressing: do you really mean what you write? or are you, quite accurately, going to question how one is to know what one means?

You used to write much more clearly, less parabolically. What is the life of "action" from which you are retreating? Do you no longer bother to eat and sleep - or is it just that you have given up prize-fighting? I am not objecting to your writing a confessional letter, but to an imprecise one.

I signed my last "ye old chucklebummy", and as soon as it was posted regretted it, because I didn't mean it. I am not writing to you out of the past, but the present, and if it can't be done, there is no use being a resurrectionist.

I hope you were kidding when you suspected my paternity. Esther has a long way to go now in her studies here (two or three years) for a Ph. D., and it would probably be a little unfortunate to have them interrupted. But we may change our minds. Privately and vocationally we are both quite happy; next month we are moving into our first really decent living quarters in a faculty housing project, and at the same time the furniture and other paraphernalia for my permanent lab. are due to arrive, meanwhile, though, I have been able to get my research done, although under somewhat cramped conditions, and with occasional frustrations due to lack of space, equipment sometimes, and so on. Madison is probably the

least objectionable towns in the Midwest. Although Agriculture is King, the University plays just about enough of a role in the town to keep it highly stimulated without its becoming a "stuffy college town." Sometimes, I wish New York were perhaps a little closer, but certainly not that it were here (or we there). Chicago we ~~avoid~~ avoid as much as possible, having come to regard it as an overgrown railrodd depot, and very little more. I have never seen anything more depressing than the RR's-eye view of that slumtown. I haven't seen Milwaukee yet except from within a coach, but Esther just went to do some shopping there and approved of it. So you can gather that we have become pretty well acclimated to Midwestern life, at least as lived very far from the soil by a professor in Madison. But I'd rather talk to you about it in person. I take it that you're attending summer session, but there must be some time off between terms (having no connection with academic problems here, I've forgotten all about it). If a warm welcome would be enough of an inducement, do come out and visit us.

Best regards,

Yours,